

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are active in the present application. The claims are amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 11-14 find support in Claims 1-10 and the specification. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--3. (Amended) Use according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the bacterial strain is a *Lactobacillus plantarum* strain.

4. (Amended) Use according to [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 of *Lactobacillus plantarum* 299v, deposition number DSM 9843.

5. (Amended) Use according to [any of claims 1-4] claim 1 for the reduction of IL-6 in blood.

6. (Amended) Use according to [any of claims 1-4] claim 1 for the reduction of the level of reactive oxygen species in blood.

7. (Amended) Use according to [any of claims 1-4] claim 1 for the reduction of the adhesion of monocytes to endothelial cells.

8. (Amended) Use according to [any of claims 1-4] claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of chronic inflammatory diseases.--